



Mademoiselle Ixe



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Mary Elizabeth Hawker (1848 - 1908)

Written under the pseudonym Lanoe Falconer, the manuscript for *Mademoiselle Ixe* had been previously rejected by many publishers. The heroine is a governess in an English country house who was connected with Russian nihilists. The mystery is cleverly handled, and the artistic treatment showed a delicacy and refinement which were uncommon in English writers of short stories. The *Saturday Review*

declared it to be 'one of the finest short stories in England.' Success was great and immediate. Gladstone praised the book, of which the circulation was forbidden in Russia. Over 40,000 copies of the English editions were sold, and there were also continental and American editions. It was translated into French, German, Dutch, and Italian. Hawker's other works were also well received, and include *Cecilia de Noel*, *The Hotel D'Angleterre And Other Stories*, *Old Hampshire Vignettes*. She lived most of her life in the Hampshire Valley. Never married, her health was precarious, preventing her from writing more, and she died of tuberculosis. (*Wikipedia*)

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Read by David Wales



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